

Metropolitan Homelessness Commission

Executive Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, 2016

at Metro Social Services

800 2nd Avenue North

Present: Liz Allen Fey, Steve Samra, Wendell Seagroves, Renee Pratt, Kirby Davis

Staff Present: Will Connelly, Judy Tackett, Karri Simpson, Lesley Head, Lisa Ricketts

The meeting began at 8:33 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 6th executive meeting were approved.

Financial Report and Budget:

Lisa Ricketts reported that as of the end of May \$50,000 remains for the year within the Homelessness Commission budget.

At the end of May \$68,399.94 remains in the How's Nashville budget.

Will Connelly reported that the Homelessness Commission was awarded emergency solution grant (ESG) money that will be used to start a homeless outreach team, as recommended in the encampment recommendations. \$75,000 was awarded and Metro is matching that amount, for a total of \$150,000. This grant is for one year.

The executive committee will look at the 2017 budget at the July meeting, as well as an overview of what money was spent on in 2016.

Director's Report:

- How's Nashville updates: Will Connelly reported that the median housing placement each month, since January 2015, is 24 veterans moving into housing and 55 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. The total housing placements is 1241.

The community is currently trying to create a by name list of everyone experiencing homelessness in Nashville and while there is some idea, the data is spread out amongst databases and organizations. Working to utilize HMIS as the central database, so that this information can all be in one database, and maintain an accurate and timely list.

Currently organizations are inputting data in HMIS, however it is still a closed system and organizations are not sharing data; with an exception that two organizations have agreed to share data between each other. Discussion ensued around frustrations regarding the lack of an open data system.

The Metro Homelessness Commission has been receiving technical assistance from Zero:2016, the national effort to end veteran and chronic homelessness by the end of 2016. They are currently realigning with the federal goal of 2017 and rebranding. How's Nashville is also in discussions on whether the local campaign should refocus and what will that look like.

- Encampment Report update: A letter was sent to the Mayor last week formally presenting the recommendations of the encampment task force. Staff is working through the first recommendation by establishing a homeless outreach team (HOT).

An interdepartmental meeting will be held to discuss protocol of working with individuals living in encampments. A focus will be on what the HOT will communicate in regards to the best resources for housing, as well as communication with landlords.

Steve Samra highly encouraged that the job postings for the HOT encourage individuals with lived experience apply. This will model hope and aspiration for people experiencing homelessness that there is a way out and it models that those who have experienced homelessness are giving back to others living on the streets. It is strength based.

Governance Discussion- Housing Crisis Resolution System

Liz Allen Fey stated that at the next Commission meeting the focus should include: make a motion for acceptance of the Focus Strategies report and then discuss how they move forward. The key recommendations of the report will need to be presented again. Moving forward a governance committee is needed to delve deep into the structure of the Commission, including the bylaws. The charge of this committee will be to implement phase one of the Focus Strategies report and how to best adopt the recommendations. Liz Allen Fey stated that this will not be a volunteer committee, but needs to be intentionally appointed.

The city also needs to engage in strategic conversation including the how the shelter system operates and moving people into housing, the faith community and how they are supporting moving people into housing, and with the community service providers. The city needs to develop their beliefs because that will guide the work.

Kirby Davis asked about a unified system and feels that MDHA is ready to hand over the CoC efforts to the Metro Homelessness Commission. The current system is not performing well and \$600,000 was lost. A unified system and governance is necessary.

Announcements

Open Table is developing a tiny housing village and Wendell Seagroves is beginning to build the tiny homes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The next full Commission and Executive Commission Meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, July 8th, 2016 at the Howard Office Building in the Sonny West Conference Center.